

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E - 1639 - 03	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/ EP 03/ 50113	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17/04/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 19/04/2002
Applicant G.D. SOCIETA PER AZIONI		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report..

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

5 _____

 None of the figures.

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/50113

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-26

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/EP 03/50113

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-16

Subject I (claims 1-16) relates to a method of packing packets of cigarettes with a sheet of packing material folded about an orderly group of packets of cigarettes to form a tubular wrapping having two tubular projecting portions. Each tubular projecting portion comprises four flaps, the outer flap having a portion bearing graphics. Furthermore, the flaps are sealed by melting the sheet of packing material to define at least one bead seal outwards the graphics.

2. claims: 17-32

Subject II (claim 17-32) relates to a sheet of packing material comprising a central panel and two lateral panels, each lateral panels having slits dividing the lateral panels into adjacent portions in order to define flaps.

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U 015405-3

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/50113

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B65D85/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65D B65B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
2 X	US 4 784 261 A (KUTCHIN SIDNEY W) 15 November 1988 (1988-11-15) page 2, line 19 - page 3, line 40; figures -----	1-3
1 A	US 3 809 227 A (BEGEMANN C) 7 May 1974 (1974-05-07) figures -----	1
2 A	US 3 051 305 A (HOULE JAMES A) 28 August 1962 (1962-08-28) figures -----	1
2 A	US 3 278 016 A (CONTI JOHN D) 11 October 1966 (1966-10-11) figures -----	1
2 A	US 3 027 998 A (RIDGWAY ROBERT J) 3 April 1962 (1962-04-03) figures -----	1

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 August 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

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NO.: EV 481670962 US

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/50113

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 4784261	A	15-11-1988	NONE		
US 3809227	A	07-05-1974	SU ZA	505342 A3 7307843 A	28-02-1976 28-08-1974
US 3051305	A	28-08-1962	NONE		
US 3278016	A	11-10-1966	NONE		
US 3027998	A	03-04-1962	NONE		